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**THE AMERICAS**

3. PANAMA: Arias "may be able" to hold on--US Ambassador Austin at the UN transmits a report that the Panamanian Ambassador to the UN has expressed the opinion that Arnulfo Arias, in view of the events leading up to his assumption of the presidency, "will be able to hold on and stabilize" the situation. The Panamanian Ambassador also expressed the hope that "friendly overtures towards the US will not meet rebuff."

(CIA Comment: CIA estimates that Arnulfo Arias' chances of retaining his position have been improving during the past several days.)